

Mid-East Prophecy Update – January 15th, 2012

- Every week, since back in 2006, we have set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings so as to devote some time to studying Bible prophecy.
- The reason that we do this is because the Bible predicts certain specific events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies, and that the rapture could happen at any time.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- For today's update, I would like to share with you something that has, as of late, really struck me as being both very odd, and very peculiar.
- It seems we may be in what's called "the calm before the storm." It's as if there's this eerie sense that something horrendous is about to happen.
- Meteorologists explain the dynamics of how certain conditions can create this calm air right before the mother of all storms is about to strike.

This "How Stuff Works" website explains it best this way: A tremendous amount of vapor and heat are drawn toward the center of storms, some of which is forced upward by powerful updrafts. These updrafts remove some of this saturated air from the storm system by spilling it over the extended tops of the highest storm clouds. Air compresses as it descends from above, making it warmer and drier. This results in a stable air mass, which forms a "lid" over the lower troposphere. The process dampens cloud formation and creates a calm before the storm.

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/nature/climate-weather/storms/calm-before-storm1.htm>

- I would suggest that God might be drawing a tremendous number of Gentiles to Himself at the center, creating this powerful Holy Spirit updraft.
- This final gathering and move of the Holy Spirit is spilling the saturated air of salvation over the extended tops of the Almighty's highest clouds.
- This air of salvation compresses as it descends from above resulting in the forming of a lid over the cloud formation into which we're caught up.

- Lest you think I've lost my mind, let me hasten to speak what's on my mind. Scripture indicates that the conditions at the rapture will be calm.
- Whenever I start to fret and fear about what may be coming in what they're calling the "year of fear," the Holy Spirit reminds me of this one truth.
- The truth of the matter is all hell can't break out before Jesus takes us out, and the seven-year tribulation can't begin before our wedding begins.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV (3) Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 NIV (9) For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. **(10)** He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. **(11)** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Revelation 3:10 NIV (10) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

- The one that personally seals the deal for me is the description that is given by Jesus Himself of the calm right before He comes to take us out.

Matthew 24:36-44 NIV "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **(37)** As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **(38)** For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **(39)** and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **(40)** Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. **(41)** Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. **(42)** "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. **(43)** But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. **(44)** So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.